

Congressman's Wife Who Drives Her Husband to the Capitol Every Morning



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Mrs. Fred A. Britten.

THE HERE goes the luckiest man in Washington. This remark may be overheard any morning along Pennsylvania avenue as a 60-horsepower automobile containing Congressman and Mrs. Fred A. Britten of Chicago dashes down the avenue on its way to the Capitol. The cause of all this envy is the fact that Mrs. Britten is one of the few Congressmen's wives who drive their husbands to the Capitol each morning. Mrs. Britten's ability as

Madame, Have You a Smoking Jacket?—Here's the Latest!



The new woman's smoking robe.

Now that smoking is becoming a common habit among women, dress designers have been quick to turn out a suitable smoking suit. The same as the man has his smoking jacket, the woman has her smoking robe. French as usual have taken precedence in the matter and have sent out a fetching creation. This novel robe shows three pieces, a skirt, coat and cap fashioned out of red crepe de

chine flowered with green. The skirt is cut on straight, easy lines and has a slip about twelve inches deep, which may be closed with loops over large bullet shaped buttons. The coat is short in front and long in the back, with elbow sleeves set in with a piping of green and separated again by a second piping. They are closed at the elbow with a loop over a button. The coat is lined with a brilliant shade of green and the neck is finished with an accordion plaiting of lace. Both the skirt and the coat are bound in a gilt braid, with buttons to match. The picturesque cap is gathered in and finished with a gold tassel. Now that the fashion has been established with creations, New York women for years have been following their foreign sisters in the matter of cigarette smoking and many do not surround their actions with mystery.

Fifty-eight Dollars Worth of Talk

Useless and Prolonged Conversations That Run Up Telephone Bills.

A PRETTY Hungarian domestic recently talked from Bethlehem, Pa., to Cleveland for a full hour and fainted when she was informed the bill for the sixty minutes of love conversation with her distant sweetheart would be just \$58. She earns but \$2.50 weekly and had to contract to pay the debt in dribbets. She had been informed that it was all right to go ahead and talk until stopped and that the charge would be no more.

It is estimated that 75 per cent. of the conversation by phone every day is absolutely superfluous. Hundreds and thousands of dollars are spent daily in New York alone for telephone talk that could either be dispensed with altogether, or which exceeds its absolute time necessity by from two to four minutes even on the shortest calls.

Those who have made a close calculation declare that from one-quarter to one-half a minute is wasted by the average telephone user just in getting under way in talking. The necessary talk on the average could be condensed to one minute. The "good-bys" and the "don't forgets" that exceed in time just the saying of these words once consume another full minute. This divides the average call into three parts, only one of which is indispensable. Cases are known where women subscribers call up a regular circle of friends every morning just for a chat. They have nothing important to say, but treat the matter as if they had met their acquaintance or friend on the street and had stopped to "pass the time of day."

While such conversations as these are going on—and in fact while most of the unnecessary conversation by phone is going on—a score of people may be discommoded. This is especially true in the case of apartment houses, where there may be but one or two trunk wires entering the building for the use of many tenants. Although half a dozen tenants may desire to get a number outside the apartment and although half a dozen outside the apartment may desire to get a tenant inside, the use of the trunk wires for an unusually long period debar them from the privilege. In some apartments the users of the trunk wires for an unusual period are interrupted and warned to "get through," as some one else wishes to talk.

While there is an economy for the apartment dweller in having the owner pay the phone rental for the convenience of all tenants, nevertheless when there is a call for the apartment dweller who is not at home the party filing the call loses his coin without having received any conversation value. That is, when you call the flat in which Jones lives you get the flat, but if Jones is out or does not answer his apartment phone you get no conversation satisfaction for the money you must pay out. If Jones had a private phone and you could not raise him your coin would be returned. Many dollars are spent in New York daily paying for phone calls to absent tenants of apartment houses.

Wanted, Legible Signatures

KINDLY favor us with a legible signature," is an appeal now often encountered. It appears on the letterheads of many a legal firm and is conspicuously printed on contracts and other important documents. In hotels this request is sometimes used as a heading on each page of the register or printed on a card. It hangs in plain view of the counter.

A room clerk in one of the big hotels declares that the task of deciphering signatures has reached a crisis.

"It has got to the point where we couldn't bluff on names any longer," he said. "In these days of constant telephoning and telegraphing we've simply got to be sure that every guest's name is correctly entered on our books or there's bound to be trouble."

Of course a successful hotel clerk must have a gift for deciphering bad signatures just as he must have a good memory for names and faces, but when a man we've never seen before comes in and scrawls a long wavy line on the register without a single letter plain enough to even guess at how are we going to call him by name the next minute? He may have important mail waiting for him or he may be telephoned for any minute, so our request for a legible signature arises out of a necessity.

"It's usually men of prominence who dislike being asked for a plain signature. One man who comes here often evidently gives a good deal of trouble to new correspondents because of his bad signature. It's no uncommon thing for letters to come here intended for him, but on each envelope instead of a typewritten address is pasted the man's own signature, evidently cut from his letter. Below is the hotel address as usual. He always treats these letters as a huge joke and seems to pride himself on writing his name so that no one could guess what it was."

A member of a law firm on whose letterheads is printed "A legible signature is requested" says that these few words have saved his firm much trouble. Papers no longer have to be returned for resigning, as was formerly the case, because the first signature could not be read. Before this request for a legible signature was made important legal documents often had to be entirely rewritten because one of the parties refused to accept the signatures of some of the others on account of their illegibility.

A large employer of labor has made it a rule recently to have all applications for work brought to him. He orders

Ruth Gaynor, Mayor's Daughter, an Accomplished Horsewoman at Age of Nine

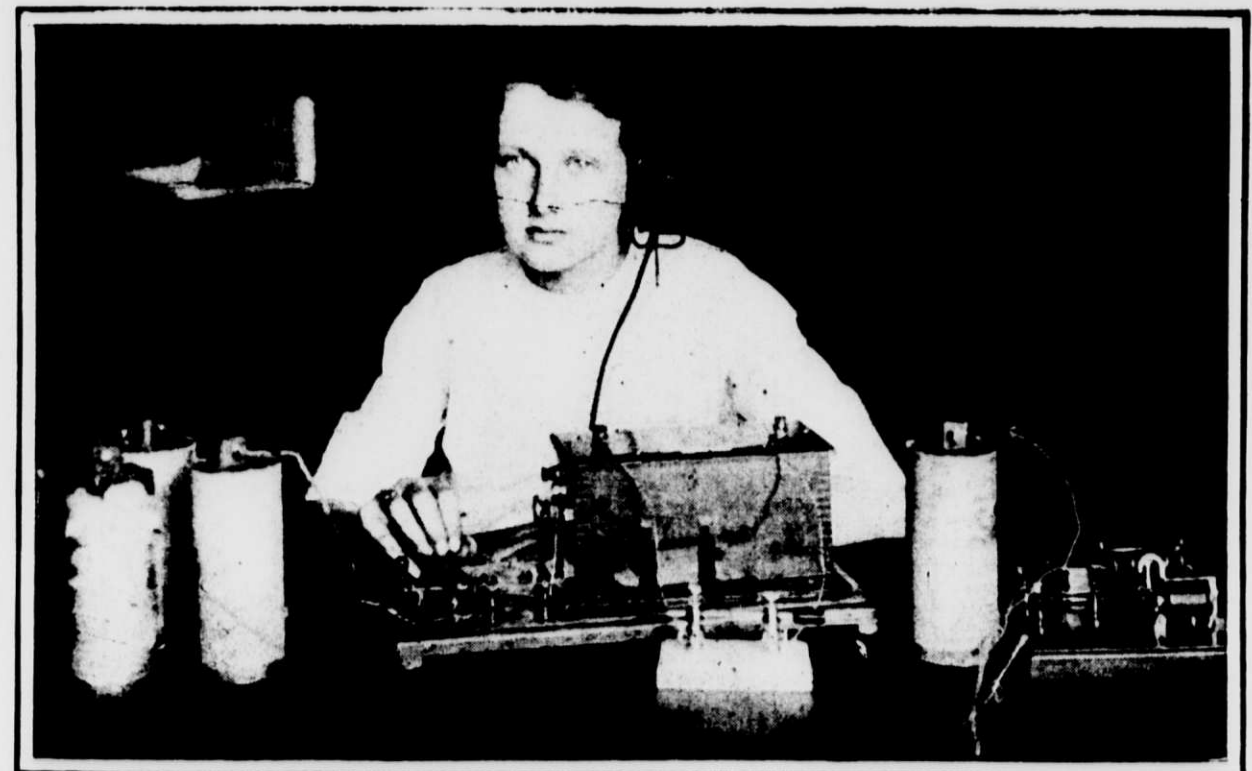


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Miss Ruth Gaynor.

MANY of the spectators at the dedication exercises of the National Maine Monument on Decoration Day wondered who was the little girl, who, a short time before Mayor Gaynor's speech of acceptance, stepped up to the beautiful memorial and laid thereon a wreath of flowers contributed by the city of New York. She was no other than the Mayor's youngest daughter, Ruth, nine years of age. With full appreciation of the honor conferred upon her, this little girl, the pride of the Mayor's family, carried through her part of the ceremony with a dignity far beyond her years. Little Miss Gaynor is surely a "chip off the old block" and already is an accomplished horsewoman. She may be seen any morning galloping along the country roads near her father's estate at St. James, L. I.

At Thirteen Has Been Granted Wireless Operator's License



Miss Alice McConaughy.

FINDING it more pleasure to snatch messages from the air than to puzzle through intricate passages of rhetoric and algebra, Miss Alice McConaughy, a slender miss of thirteen summers, some time ago forsook the schoolroom and took up the fascinating study of wireless telegraphy. She succeeded so well in her pursuit of the puzzling waves that she has been recently granted a license to operate a wireless station in Ohio. She is the first operator of her sex to be allowed to take charge of a station on the Great Lakes.

This female wireless wonder is the daughter of National Bank Inspector McConaughy of 6112 Navarre place, Madisonville, Ohio. Six months ago she installed in the kitchen of her home a wireless outfit that was the envy of all the amateurs and some of the professional operators in the State. During the eventful times of the recent flood disaster she caught many wireless cries for help from Zena, Ohio, and other places in the inundated zone, and rendered valuable service by her promptness in relaying them to the proper authorities. Her license as an operator was issued by Radio Inspector Dillon of Cleveland, Ohio.

Subway Elevator Better Lighted

"I must say that the Interborough is doing everything possible to make things pleasant for those who use the subway," remarked a resident of Washington Heights, "and is constantly improving little things here and there."

"On the Broadway division, for instance, it is just now experimenting with improvements in the lighting of the elevators used at some of the stations. The elevators at 168th street have always been fairly well lighted by incandescent lights, supported by brackets on the walls. The Inter-

borough was not satisfied with the lighting arrangement, however. A short time ago the bracket lights in the elevator nearest the short stairway to the street were ripped out and a more elaborate lighting arrangement installed. The new arrangement consists of domes of ribbed glass installed in the roof of the car. It is said that this light is softer on the eyes and the same arrangement will soon be installed in the other car."